

★ **WE DEDICATE THIS EDITION WITH HONOR AND GRATITUDE** ★
TO THE MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN MILITARY HEROS
FROM CITRUS COUNTY WHO GAVE
THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.



SGT. DENNIS BOLES

SGT. DENNIS FLANAGAN

PFC. MICHAEL MAHR

SGT. ROBERT SURBER

CPL. JONATHAN TAYLOR

CWO. AARON WEAVER



THANK YOU

E-lection News



*Citrus County, Florida
2011 Summer Edition*

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Welcome to our E-lection Newsletter. I hope you will join me and my staff as we pay our respects to our fallen military heroes, who gallantly paved the way for us to continue our freedoms. Voting is one of those freedoms allowed us by the extreme sacrifices of our men and women of the military. To those who served and those serving now we humbly say, "Thank you."

A lot has been happening around the county, state and nation in regards to elections and we are happy to share the latest information, as we continue preparing for our upcoming 2012 presidential election cycle. We hope you find this edition informative and helpful and if you have any questions or wish to make a comment, please give us a call at 341-6740 or email us at vote@elections.citrus.fl.us.

*Susan Gill
Citrus County
Supervisor of Elections*



SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TESTIFIES IN WASHINGTON



Susan Gill, Supervisor of Elections, testified at a March 31, 2011 hearing of the Committee on House Administration Subcommittee on Elections. The subject was "A Look Back at the 2010 Elections: What Went Right and Wrong."

This Committee is charged with the oversight of federal elections and the day-to-day operations of the House of Representatives. Their jurisdiction over federal elections requires it to consider proposals to amend federal election law and to monitor federal elections across the United States. The Committee was instrumental in the passage of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, which former Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter called the most meaningful improvement in election laws and voting safeguards in a generation. Rep. Rich Nugent, R-Fla. is a member of this committee. Ms. Gill joined four other witnesses, Colorado Secretary of State Scott Gessler; Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie; Ken Carbullido, Senior Vice-President of Election Service and Software, Inc.; and Mr. Lawrence Norden, Democracy Program, Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law.

In her testimony, Ms. Gill stated that the 2010 election in Florida went very well. Her concern for the future, however, is the impact and ramifications of conducting elections with reduced budgets. Voter confidence in the election process has greatly increased since 2000, she stated, and we can not afford to see this confidence eroded because elections officials do not have enough money to run credible elections.

Ms. Gill stated that testifying before the Committee was a great experience. "We should be proud that the Florida election process has improved so much after the 2000 election that Florida elections officials are asked to testify before the Congressional committee."

To access the written testimony of Ms. Gill or watch the video of the proceedings, go to <http://cha.house.gov/>, select Cmte. Schedule, Past Hearings or Mark-ups from the left column and then select the 2010 Election: What Went Right and Wrong.



Rep. Rich Nugent and Susan Gill

2011 Florida Legislative Session Changes Election Law



Many changes occurred in the 2011 legislative session. Among the bills passed was one that affects election laws and procedures. Most of the bill changes procedures for our elections office, but here are a few things in the bill that will affect you, as voters.

- ★ Early voting has been reduced to 8 days. This means early voting will begin on a Saturday and end the following Saturday prior to the election on Tuesday. Operating hours are to be no less than 6 hours and no more than 12.
- ★ Changes the Primary Election to 12 weeks before the General Election. This places the Primary Election for 2012 on August 14th.
- ★ Requires voters who move into Citrus County from another Florida county and change their address at the polls on Election Day, to vote a provisional ballot.
- ★ Established a committee to set the date for the Presidential Preference Primary between the first Tuesday in January and the first Tuesday in March; they have until October 1st to decide.

- ★ Requires third-party voter registration organizations to register each agent who will register a person to vote, with the Division of Elections before engaging in any voter registration activities; must submit registrations to the elections office within 48 hours.
- ★ Sets absentee requests to 2 election cycles, which means that if you request an absentee ballot, it will be for 2012 and 2014 unless you request otherwise.

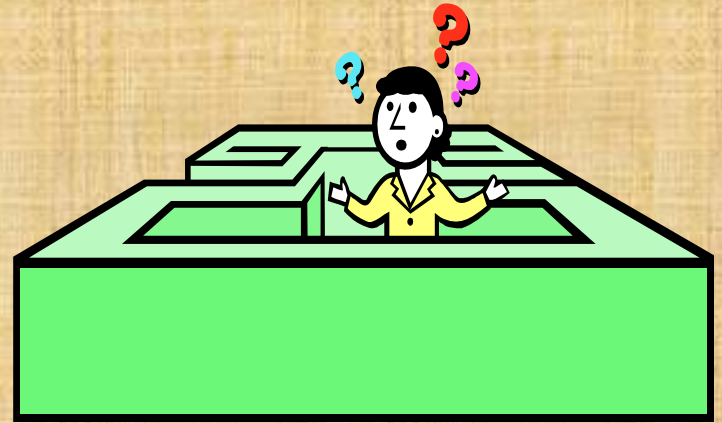
These are only a few changes in the 158 page bill. The rest of the bill addresses mainly technical and administrative changes for elections officials, and a few changes to candidate requirements.

Here is the best advice we can give you, the voter, to help make the election process quick and easy—if you have moved, changed your name or had a life event that has changed your signature since the last election (Nov. 2010), make sure you update this information with the elections office. Not sure? Give us a call—341-6740 or toll free at 800-655-6645.



YOUR VOICE . . . YOUR VOTE!

Where, Oh Where Has My Polling Place Gone?



The elections office, along with the entire County, is challenged with finding ways to reduce spending. One way we have come up with is to combine voting precincts. With more voters using early vote sites and mail-in ballots, it only makes sense to reduce the polling places. In 2010, 61% of those who voted, voted prior to Election Day.

At this time, we have plans to combine several precincts, which means reduction of location rental fees, fewer poll workers, and less equipment expenses. The number we combine may change with the 2012 redistricting process still to come.

Moving a precinct is not something we take lightly or that easily happens. There are procedures that must follow protocols. Mapping changes, approval by the Board of County Commissioners and filing with the Division of Elections are some things that must occur before precincts can be moved.

Also, district lines may change next year and we do not want to duplicate efforts that could result in voter confusion.

There are a couple of moves that we can mention at this time. Precinct 402, previously located at the D.A.V. Building on Paul Drive in Inverness, will now be voting at the Hernando Church of the Nazarene located at Bitzer Avenue and U.S. Highway 41. Also, Precincts 409 and 410 in Inverness have been combined and will be known as Precinct 403 and voting at the Inverness Government Center (City Hall). When the changes are closer to becoming a reality, we will be sure to let you know.



*Can't make it
to the polls?*

*Order a ballot by mail
and vote in the privacy
of your home!*

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

Not only are there changes in election laws this year, but also changes in election staff.

Ann Johnson, our Administrative Services Director and Candidate Qualifying Officer since 2005, will be retiring on June 30th after 25 years of service to Citrus County.

"I'm excited about retirement, but it's bitter sweet. I'm sad to be leaving a job I love, but am looking forward to new adventures, especially spending more time with my family."

We wish Ann all the best and all the fun she can handle!



Also leaving us this year is our part time Assistant Poll Worker Coordinator, Katherine Schwartz, who has worked with us since 2006. Katherine is moving to the St. Petersburg area to be nearer to family and friends. We will surely miss her smiling face and wish her much happiness.



WELCOME ABOARD!

*We are pleased to introduce our new Administrative Services Director **Elizabeth Atkinson** who comes to us after 10 years with the Clerk's office. She is very familiar with our budget and finance system and will also serve as the Candidate Qualifying Officer. We hope you will join us in welcoming Elizabeth as we initiate her into our world . . . with a presidential election cycle!*



And the Winner Is . . . MacKenzie Shaw, a student in Gail Bockiaro's 4th grade class at Forest Ridge Elementary School, took top honors in the Tropicana Speech Contest held May 3rd. Judging these talented students were from left, Josh Wooten, Chamber of Commerce President, Connie Lobel, VP Capital City Bank, Susan Gill, Supervisor of Elections, Darryl Clouse, Information Systems Director, and Joe Meek, County Commissioner and President of the EDC. Great job, MacKenzie!



Sunshine State Readers Awards Program

Patrick Thomas, Voter Outreach Coordinator visited area schools for the Sunshine State Readers Awards Program. Pictured are students in grades 3—5 at the Pleasant Grove Elementary School in Inverness who read from a selection of several books and then marked their ballots for their favorites.

Not only does this program encourage reading, but it gives the students experience in voting and shows them that every vote counts!



Martin County Election Officials Travel to Citrus

Recently, Vicki Martin, Supervisor of Elections for Martin County (pictured left of Susan Gill) and some of her staff drove from Stuart to visit our office. Martin County, on the East coast of Florida, is very close in size to Citrus with registered voters, so it is always a win-win situation when we can get together with other counties to share ideas.



FAIR TIME IS FUN TIME!

The elections office took third place for booth decorations during the 2011 Citrus County Fair. Cassandra Wims and staff had lots of fun preparing the decorations. Office staff and local volunteers took turns at the booth to assist in registering new voters, signing up poll workers and answering questions regarding elections.



Exercise Your Mind

Try to answer the following questions. These are "trick" questions, so think outside the box! The answers are at the bottom of the page, but don't look yet!



1. A 10 foot rope ladder hangs over the side of a boat with the bottom rung on the surface of the water. The rungs are one foot apart and the tide goes up at the rate of 6 inches per hour. How long will it be until three rungs are covered?
2. If you had only one match, and entered a dark room containing an oil lamp, some newspaper, and some kindling wood, which would you light first?
3. What was the President's name in 1960?
4. If there are 6 apples and you take away 4, how many do you have?
5. There are two coins which total 55 cents. One of them is not a nickel. What are the two coins?
6. Start with three coins: a penny, a nickel and a quarter. Say, "Tommy's mother has three children. The first child's name is Penny." (Hold up the penny while saying this.) "The second child's name is Nick." (Hold up the nickel.) What is the third child's name? (Hold up the quarter.)

How did you do?

1. They will never be covered—the boat rises with the tide.
2. The match.
3. The same as it is today.
4. 4
5. A half dollar and a nickel.
6. Tommy.